

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/506,671
Amendment filed June 11, 2007
Reply to OA dated March 8, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 3. In FIG. 3, the cross-hatching for first and second tubular joint members 12,13 has been amended to be consistent with synthetic resin.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claims 1-6 and 8-14 are currently being examined.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because of an informality in Figure 3, regarding the cross-hatching for the tubular joint members.

The specification (p. 17, lines 10-16) indicates that first and second tubular joint members 12,13 are synthetic resin, in FIG. 3.

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 3. In FIG. 3, the cross-hatching for first and second tubular joint members 12,13 has been amended to be consistent with synthetic resin.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection to FIG. 3 should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently pending are in condition for examination.

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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Replacement Sheet of Drawings (Figs. 1 and 3)